



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 19 Number 12 – December, 2017

14 pages



December Events

Monday Morning Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:45AM:

December 4 – mentor Monday pairs

December 11 – Christmas party with quarterly club championship open pairs

December 18 – ACBL charity foundation open pairs

December 25 – NO GAME – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Contact Ann Schuyler at 309-663-4052 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Saturday, December 2, 11:45AM – membership game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 4, 6:15PM - membership game 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, December 6, 1:15PM – membership game 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 7, 11:45AM – membership game open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 9, 11:45AM – quarterly club champ open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 11, 6:15PM - quarterly club champ 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, December 12, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, December 13, 1:15PM – quarterly club champ 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 14, 11:45AM – quarterly club champ open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 16, 11:45AM – open pairs – SPECIAL LOCATION - First Christian

Monday, December 18, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, December 20, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 21, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 23, 11:45AM – open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, December 25, NO GAME – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Wednesday, December 27, 1:15PM – 499ers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, December 28, 11:45AM – local charity open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, December 30, 11:45AM – local charity open pairs – Centennial Christian

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner. All game results are posted online: <http://clubresults.acbl.org/>

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!





The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 11/6/2017 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



1	3,740.04	Steve Babin
2	3,729.55	Betty Capodice
3	2,963.82	Zack Freehill
4	2,839.95	Eunice Patton
***	2,557.18	Laura Addison
5	2,288.90	Cindy Moore
6	2,205.52	JoAnn Schroeder
7	2,164.37	Mike Tomlianovich
8	1,955.39	Ann Schuyler
***	1,735.61	Steve Hawthorne
9	1,676.78	Lori Moore
10	1,663.59	Dewey Gronau
11	1,535.78	Ron Emmett
12	1,431.38	Charlie Morton
***	1,398.35	Sharad Chitgopekar
***	1,320.43	Ed Lombard
13	1,263.31	Stan Gutzman
14	1,233.09	Jeanne Strand
15	1,156.10	Ivey Weaver
16	1,148.08	Jeff Furler
***	1,091.94	Marian Edmunds
17	1,045.75	Jean Barnett
18	991.51	Randall Motchan
19	906.11	Joyce Clay
20	868.69	Steve Wulfers
***	835.37	Glen Beaman
21	797.02	Henrietta Crain
***	792.95	Don Strand
***	780.34	Jack Kessler
22	766.07	Dennis Moll
23	765.38	Dave Freehill
***	741.06	Pearl Harris
***	699.99	Peg Deutsch
***	610.73	Martin Compton
***	570.80	Ann Farnsworth
***	567.22	Ruth Wettaw
24	525.66	Lane O'Connor
25	500.81	Sallie Boge

Other players:

***	12,741.55	Dick Benson-LeRoy
	12,488.45	Chris Benson-LeRoy
	5,017.97	John Seng-Champaign
	4,915.99	Larry Matheny-Colorado
	4,372.48	Ron Sholes-Springfield
***	4,073.45	Alan Wienman-Morton
	4,088.71	Christine Carroll-Champaign
	4,025.08	Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap
	4,032.38	Jim Carbaugh-Metamora
	3,888.69	Kish Devaraj-Georgia
	3,145.31	Paul Lindauer-Varna
	2,837.95	Mary Allen-Peoria
	2,805.38	Carole Sholes-Springfield
	2,603.56	Ray Russ-Henry
	2,586.15	Pat Carrington-Champaign
	2,544.76	Georgia Heth-Morton
	2,512.08	Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign
	2,481.72	Margaret Hansell-Champaign
	2,450.98	Gail Moon-Tennessee
	2,116.02	Hank Hoffman-East Peoria
	1,952.18	John Maloney-Champaign
	1,896.33	Tim Cull-Arizona
	1,817.13	Marilyn Stickel-Lacon
***	1,776.22	John Burdon
	1,560.98	Bobbie Straker-Pekin
***	1,525.29	John La Rue-Pontiac
	1,284.01	Jim Moon-Tennessee
	1,236.17	Chuck Langley-Mechanicsburg
	1,169.72	Bill Bulfer-East Peoria
***	1,093.04	Phil Kenney-Eureka
***	916.41	Floyd Sherry-Eureka
	774.05	Wes Seitz-Champaign

*** deceased



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#1 –

Research tells us only 8% of males are color blind along with a mere .5% of females. However, these numbers seem low when it comes to bridge players recognizing the color RED.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 17-15	♠ 1098	West	North	East	South
	♥ AQ75	-	-	-	3♦
	♦ 10				
Vul N/S	♣ Q9765	DBL	Pass	Pass	Pass
♠ AKQ2	<input type="checkbox"/>				
♥ 9843					
♦ Q					
♣ A432					
	♠ J653				
	♥ KJ102				
	♦ A974				
	♣ 10				
	♠ 74				
	♥ 6				
	♦ KJ86532				
	♣ KJ8				


Bidding: With no thought to the vulnerability, South saw his seven card suit and bid three diamonds. West made a takeout double and East did see the vulnerability and he passed for penalties.

Play: West led the ace of spades and the carnage began. Declarer was able to score 1 heart, 1 club, and 4 diamonds for down three and -800. E/W could make game in either major but that would score only +420 or +450.

Any preempt with adverse vulnerability is dangerous. In a Pairs game, a score of -200 when the opponents have only a part score is the kiss of death. At the very least you should have a good suit making it less likely you will be doubled. Better yet, when you see RED in front of you and the opponents are non-vulnerable, find the GREEN pass card.

Start talking about percentages and some bridge players panic. However, to succeed at bridge you must learn how the missing cards in suits are expected to divide. This probability chart is one you need to know.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 17-16	♠ J10632	West	North	East	South
	♥ 106	-	Pass	Pass	1♦
Vul N/S	♦ AK8	Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
	♣ K98	Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
♠ 87		Pass	Pass	Pass	
♥ K8754					
♦ Q32					
♣ J64					
	♠ Q5				
	♥ AJ92				
	♦ J1094				
	♣ AQ10				
	♠ AK94				
	♥ Q3				
	♦ 765				
	♣ 7532				

Bidding: With invitational strength, North invited game and South accepted. North might have used the New Minor Forcing convention to discover if his partner held three spades.

Play: West led the five of hearts to the queen and ace. Counting his tricks, declarer saw he had 3 hearts, 2 diamonds, and 3 clubs. He could establish a ninth trick by either leading spades or by taking the diamond finesse. Since this was a pairs event, he also would like an overtrick. For an additional trick in spades he needed the suit to divide 3-3 which was a 36% proposition. On the other hand, the diamond finesse presented a 50% chance. After winning the ace of hearts, declarer led back another heart to knock out the king. West won and shifted to a club won by declarer in the South hand. Next, he led the jack of diamonds and it didn't matter if West covered. Declarer now had 4 diamonds tricks and the overtrick resulted in a good score.

There are so many bidding conventions and agreements that it is easy to become overwhelmed. However, some are very valuable tools. This North-South pair used the Splinter convention and Roman Keycard Blackwood to reach a nice grand slam.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 17-17	♠ A74	West	North	East	South
	♥ K	-	-	-	1 ♣
Vul N/S	♦ A86	Pass	2 ♣	Pass	3 ♦
	♣ AQ9632	Pass	4 ♣	Pass	4 ♠
♠ J532		Pass	4NT	Pass	5 ♠
♥ Q1098		Pass	7 ♣	Pass	Pass
♦ J1094		Pass			
♣ 4		Pass			
	♠ 106				
	♥ J754				
	♦ K7532				
	♣ J7				
	♠ KQ98				
	♥ A632				
	♦ Q				
	♣ K1085				

Bidding: North's two club bid was a forcing raise. This showed 5+ clubs, 10+ support points, and denied a 4-card major. South jumped to three diamonds to show a sound opener and shortness in diamonds. This pair uses four club here as Roman Keycard Blackwood which treats the king of the agreed suit as an ace. South admitted to two keycards but denied the queen of clubs. North continued with 4NT to ask about kings and South showed the spade honor. North was now confident of 13 tricks and bid the grand slam.

Play: West led a trump and by establishing the North hand, declarer could indeed count 13 tricks: 3 spades, 2 hearts (discarding a diamond), 1 diamond, 1 diamond ruff, and 6 clubs. Those who were greedy and bid 7NT could only find 12 tricks.

It's difficult to know who can make what and when a sacrifice will be successful. However, it's usually best to bid as high as you intend to go as soon as possible. This may keep your opponents from exchanging additional information.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

Hand 17-18	♠ KQ108 ♥ J1074 ♦ 853 ♣ A4		West	North	East	South
Vul N/S			-	Pass	Pass	1♠
			2NT	3♦	DBL	4♥
			4NT	5♥	Pass	Pass
			Pass			

♠ 6		♠ 94
♥ 96		♥ 852
♦ AQJ104		♦ K972
♣ QJ762		♣ K1093

	♠ AJ7532
	♥ AKQ3
	♦ 6
	♣ 85

Bidding: West showed both minors with her 2NT bid and North's cue bid of diamonds (the higher of the opponents' suits) show a limit raise in spades. East made an error by only doubling the cue bid instead of jumping to five diamonds. This allowed South to show his second suit. West tried again with 4NT but now North, with a fit for both of his partner's suits, had little interest in defending and bid five hearts.

Play: West led the ace and a second diamond which declarer trumped. Declarer simply had to draw trumps and discard dummy's small club on a spade to establish twelve tricks and a score of +680. Note that only eleven tricks are available in a spade contract. East-West had a nice sacrifice available in six diamonds losing only four tricks for -500.

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Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Year 2017 only
Sponsored by: TBA

2017/11/5	76.85%	Lori & Cindy Moore
2017/9/25	73.15%	Bev Branning & Lynn Steffen(99ers)
2017/9/23	72.22%	Cindy Moore & Steve Babin
2017/8/7	71.25%	Eric Malchodi & Larry Ziegler(99ers)
2017/8/7	71.88%	Eunice Patton & Steve Babin
2017/7/31	70.14%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye (99ers)
2017/6/19	73.33%	Gary Kemp & Larry Ziegler(99ers)
2017/6/3	71.43%	Eunice Patton & Steve Babin
2017/5/15	74.31%	Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(99ers)
2017/5/15	73.61%	Gaye Hoselton & Larry Ziegler(99ers)
2017/5/9	70.83%	Nancy Lamkin & Connie Finney(Clinton invitational)
2017/5/8	70.56%	Ron Calabrese & Bob Bye(99ers)
2017/5/4	71.48%	Ann Schuyler & Mike Tomlianovich
2017/4/25	73.61%	Marilyn & Darryl Bremner(Clinton invitational)
2017/3/27	75.69%	Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(99ers)
2017/3/22	70.24%	Bob Clay & Kirk Kimmel(499ers)
2017/2/8	73.81%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)
2017/2/1	70.24%	Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(499ers)

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#017 – A TRUMP DEMOTION

If you've been following this month's series of articles, then by now you are familiar with trump promotions. They are not so difficult once you get the hang of them, but it takes real talent to organize a trump *demotion*! Observe this tragic E-W performance:

E-W Vulnerable

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	Pass	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

	♠ T64 ♥ T832 ♦ 3 ♣ AQJ87	
♠ AK ♥ Q97652 ♦ T9432 ♣ T9432	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ QJ3 ♥ QJ976 ♦ AJT ♣ 65
	♠ AK98752 ♥ 54 ♦ K84 ♣ K	

Looking just at N-S, playing in 4♠, you can see 3 top losers in the red suits. Of course, when tackling the trump suit, Declarer plays the ♠A first. Most (89%) of the time trumps will be 2-1 and there will be 10 easy tricks. But this deal is in the unlucky 11%, and so Declarer is destined to go down one.

But, no! Here come E-W, galloping to Declarer's rescue! West's opening lead is the ♥K, followed by the ♥A. This

sequence of plays cleverly shows a doubleton in the E-W methods (with a longer suit, this pair would lead the Ace first). Then a Diamond switch is won by East's Ace, and a Heart comes back. Declarer ruffs resignedly with the Nine and, when that unexpectedly holds, the jig is up! Declarer now has no trouble working out the trump position, and crosses to Dummy (twice if necessary) to finesse East out of his ♠QJ3. Making 10 tricks!

It was not too smart of West to advertise a doubleton Heart when he had no trumps with which to ruff the third round. And East, knowing the trump situation, might have done better not to play that third round of Hearts (although a suspicious Declarer would surely have smelled a rat if East had *not* done so). So, there you have it, the dreaded trump demotion!

#018 – SMARTER THAN A SECOND-GRADER?

We learn to count in first- and second-grade, but somehow this basic skill deserts many bridge players in the heat of battle.

	♠ A832 ♥ Q85 ♦ QJ7653 ♣	
♠ 6 ♥ K63 ♦ K842 ♣ AQ543	North West East Declarer	♠ 754 ♥ AJ94 ♦ T9 ♣ 8762
	♠ KQJT9 ♥ T72 ♦ A ♣ KJT9	

None Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
1♣	1♦	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

West leads a low Heart and East (correctly) inserts the Jack. Two more Hearts are cashed, followed by a trump shift. “Rats!” mutters Declarer, who had been planning to cross-ruff the entire hand, scoring all nine trumps separately. Those ruffs, plus the ♦A, would be enough to fulfill the contract. But, after the trump return, the cross-ruff leaves Declarer a trick short, so it’s time for Plan B.

Our Declarer’s (faulty) Plan B was to set up Dummy’s Diamonds. He won the trump return in hand, cashed the ♦A, then Club ruff, Diamond ruff, Club ruff, Diamond ruff. This line of play required good breaks (such as Spades 2-2 and Diamonds 3-3, or failing that the doubleton ♦K). But Declarer’s luck was out and, as the cards lie, it was impossible to enjoy those long Diamonds.

Our second-graders need no luck, instead they’ll do some counting:

- N-S have 23 HCP, so the other guys have 17
- In the Heart suit East showed up with 5 of those 17 missing HCP
- West opened the bidding and surely has the remaining 12 HCP

Once Declarer realizes that West has the missing high cards (obviously including the ♣A and ♣Q), it’s routine to win the trump return in hand, and take ruffing finesses against West’s high Clubs. Declarer leads the ♠K which is covered by the Ace and ruffed. Back to hand with a trump. Then the ♠J is led, and run around if West declines to cover. When the dust has cleared, Declarer will have scored 5 trumps in his hand, plus two Club ruffs in Dummy, plus two Club tricks, and the ♦A. 10 easy tricks for the second-graders!

#019 – STUFF THAT *DOESN'T* HAPPEN

Last week, our astute Declarer remembered that his opponent had opened the bidding, sensibly deduced that said opponent must have the missing high cards, and then played the hand accordingly. This week's deal is a bit more difficult, as Declarer must be alert to something which did *not* happen!

	♠ 9542 ♥ QT32 ♦ K43 ♣ A4	
♠ 86 ♥ K986 ♦ J952 ♣ JT8	<i>North</i> <i>West</i> <i>East</i> <i>Declarer</i>	♠ AK7 ♥ J4 ♦ T76 ♣ Q6532
	♠ QJT3 ♥ A75 ♦ AQ8 ♣ K97	

E-W Vulnerable

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

N-S stumble into 4♠ after a Stayman auction and West leads the ♣J. It looks like a simple enough hand, and so it is. Declarer loses two trumps and must avoid also losing two Heart tricks. How would you play the hand?

You win the first trick with the ♣K and lead the ♠Q. East wins that, then cashes his second high Spade, and exits a Spade.

You can cash some minor suit winners if you like but you already have all the information that you need to make the contract a virtual certainty.

What was it which “did not happen”? That’s right, East did not open the bidding! He has already shown up with the ♠AK ... and West’s lead of the ♣J denied the Queen. That gives East 9 HCP, so surely he cannot also hold the ♥K, that would be 12 HCP, and enough to open. So, you cash the ♥A and lead low towards the board. West is an expert and nonchalantly plays low, perhaps while stifling a yawn. But you are having none of that malarkey! You confidently call for the Queen and it’s 10 tricks for the good guys!

#020 – THE POWER OF DEDUCTION

This deal follows continues the month's theme of counting the opponents' HCP.

	♠ ♥ 985 ♦ KJ842 ♣ 98432	
♠ 532 ♥ A764 ♦ AT3 ♣ JT6	North West East Declarer	♠ Q764 ♥ QJT ♦ Q75 ♣ A75
	♠ AKJT98 ♥ K32 ♦ 96 ♣ KQ	

Both Vulnerable
South West North East
 Pass Pass
 1♠ Pass Pass Pass

This is not the most swashbuckling auction ever to appear in Bridge Bites but the deal does provide a test for Declarer's powers of deduction. Cover up the E-W hands if you would like to test your own powers.

West leads the ♣J won by East's Ace and it takes half a nano-second for East to find the ♥Q shift. You could duck Hearts twice, hoping that West has the doubleton ♥A, but that would give East 5 Hearts and he would be unlikely to

sell out to 1♠ in that case. So, you hopefully play the ♥K, taken by West's Ace. Two more Hearts are won by East's ♥JT, then a Club which you win. The ♠A and ♠K are cashed, followed by the ♠J to East's Queen (West following).

Back comes East's last trump, and decision time has arrived! You've already lost 5 tricks, and must avoid the loss of two Diamonds if you are to make your contract. A Diamond to the Jack? Or a Diamond to the King? Do you have your guessing shoes on?

Guess? What guess? Let's reflect upon East's bidding. Oh, that's right, he didn't bid - which is the whole point of this hand. So far East has shown up with ♣A, ♥QJ, and ♠Q. That's 9 High Card Points (HCP). Can East also have the ♦A? Absolutely not! He passed originally, that ♦A would give him 13 HCP and too much for said Pass. So, you lead a Diamond towards the board, West smoothly plays low, and you rise majestically with the ♦K. Making 7 tricks thanks to a little deduction.

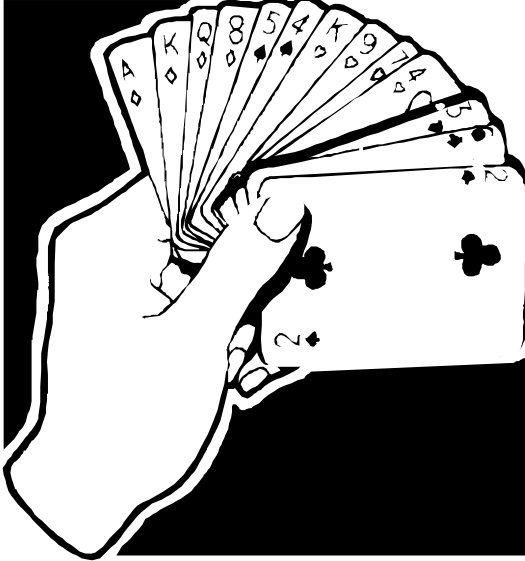
Post Script: Upon winning the ♥A, West would have done better to shift fiendishly to a low Diamond, putting Declarer to the test in that suit before all the clues had been collected!

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Upcoming tournaments:



Winter STaC

Feb 5-11, 2018

